Faulty Fertilizer Policy

6583. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Fertilizer policy drawn flak" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 4th April, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the faulty fertilizer policy has put soil imbalances and whether any representations have been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The present fertilizer policy is the outcome of recommendations submitted in August, 1992 by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertiliser Pricing. The recommendations accepted by the Government led to decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertiliser resulting in their price increase initially affecting their consumption, widening the NPK ratio. For narrowing down the NPK ratio, subsequent measures taken by Government include making available phosphatic and potassis fertilisers at concessional rates to farmers and promoting use of chemical fertilisers in conjunction with manures, compost, green manuring and bio-fertilisers.

Some representations on Fertiliser policy have been received, however presently, there is no proposal so far to effect changes.

Chemical Weapons Convention

6584. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is one of the original signatories to the Chemical Weapons Convention (C.W.C) which is expected to come into force sometime in mid-1995;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of CWC indicating location of the Headquarters;

(c) whether any nodal agency is being set up in India with a view to discharge the obligations of the Convention; if so, where;

(d) whether OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) propose to undertake the trial inspection of the units, monitor activities of dual purpose chemical industry in India including making arrangement for training of suitable personnel in regard to implementation of CWC; and

(e) whether the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers have made any budgetary allocation/grants for meeting expenses relating to the CWC together with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e) India is one of the original 130 signatories to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction (Chemical Wapons Convention). Presently, there are 159 signatories, out of which 27 have ratified it. The Convention will come into force two years after the date of its opening for signatures or 180 days after the date of deposit of the 65th instrument of ratification whichever is later.

The Convention aims at excluding completely the possibility of the use of Chemical Weapons through the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. Its Headquarter is located at the Hague, th Netherlands. In order to fulfil the obligations under the Convention, each State Party has to designate or establish a National Authority to serve as a national focal point for effective liaison